However, state owned BSNL/MTNL are organizing Open House Sessions/ Telephone Adalats to redress complaints of their subscribers at district level on regular basis.

Incorrect Billing of WLL Telephones in Bilaspur

†337. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the common public is facing heavy difficulties due to the long waiting list for new WLL connections in rural areas of the country and also due to incorrect billing of WLL telephone service connections;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of such complaints is higher in Bilaspur areas of Chhattisgarh; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A combined waiting list is maintained by BSNL for land line and WLL telephone connections in rural areas. For these wait-listed applicants, the new telephone connections, which are not possible to be provided by underground cable in remote and scattered areas, have been planned on WLL. No difficulties have been reported due to incorrect billing of WLL telephone connections in the country.

(b) Of the 7 complains received in Bilaspur area, 5 have been settled. Efforts are made to settle the rest also.

(c) Bills are being issued as per normal schedule. Efforts are made to settle the complaints, if any, promptly.

Increase in Rural Teledensity

338. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the teledensity of Urban India as on 1st December, 2004;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the teledensity of rural India as on 1st December 2004;

(c) the reasons for not finding an increase in rural teledensity inspite of an unprecedented growth over the last three years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that still 85,228 villages do not have access to a single telephone connection in the country; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD) : (a) The teledensity of Urban India as on 1st December 2004, is 25.24%.

(b) The teledensity of Rural India as on 1st December 2004, is 1.67%.

(c) The Rural teledensity is also increasing as shown below:

March, 2002	=	1.22%
March, 2003	=	1.49%
March, 2004	=	1.58%
1st December, 2004	=	1.67%

(d) and (e) There are only 66822 revenue villages without telephone facility (as per Census 1991) which are inhabitated and are not naxalite/ insurgency affected villages in the country. Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) invited tenders and awarded the work to BSNL for covering these villages. As per the conditions of the work awarded, these villages are planned to be covered progressively by November, 2007. Out of these villages, 2654 have been provided with telephone facility upto 31-1-2005.

Deficiencies in IT Act

339. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Committee of Experts to examine the deficiencies in the IT Act, 2000;